



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Resources
Surface Water Discharge (NPDES) Permitting Program

WM 15 NPDES General Permit Notice of Intent
(Not required for all applications)

Instructions and Supporting Materials

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Introduction

MassDEP *Instructions & Support Materials* are available for download from the MassDEP Web site at www.mass.gov/dep in two file formats: Microsoft Word™ and Adobe Acrobat PDF™. Either format allows documents to be printed.

Instructions & Support Materials files contain a series of documents that provide guidance on how to prepare a permit application. Although we recommend that you print out the entire package, you may choose to print specific documents by selecting the appropriate page numbers for printing.

For this permit category, MassDEP is accepting EPA's Notice of Intent form as the application form. Copies of the form and instructions may be obtained from the [US EPA Website](http://www.epa.gov), "Appendix V: Notice of Intent (NOI) Instructions and Suggested Form (PDF)." This form may be filled out online and printed. This permit category replaces WM 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.



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Permit Application Fact Sheet

1. What is the purpose of Submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for NPDES General Permits to MassDEP and EPA?

A general permit is not tailored to a specific facility but rather written to cover multiple dischargers with similar operations and types of discharges. Once issued, dischargers may request coverage, consistent with the permit eligibility and authorization provisions. Dischargers covered under general permits know their applicable requirements before obtaining coverage under that permit. In order to request coverage, an applicant must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to EPA and may also, depending on circumstances described below, need to apply to MassDEP.

2. Who must apply?

Any agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth

- Any federal agency
- Any public or private:
 - corporation
 - authority
 - individual
 - partnership
 - association, or
 - other entity

proposing to discharge wastewater from a point source to surface water must apply to EPA. The following situations require applicants to submit a copy of EPA's Notice of Intent (NOI) to MassDEP, along with transmittal form and payment (unless exempt):

- POTW General Permit: All applicants
- Dewatering General Permit: Discharges to an Outstanding Resource Water or Class SA Water
- Remediation General Permit (RGP): discharges from non-MCP sites
- All other general permits: Discharges to an Outstanding Resource Water.

3. What is the application fee?

WM 15 \$ 500

4. What is the Primary Permit Location?

Completed permit applications (where applicable) should be submitted to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Surface Water Discharge Permit Program
One Winter Street, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02108

5. Where can I get a copy of the timelines?

The timelines are available on the MassDEP Website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/approvals/timely-action-fees-and-payments.html>

6. What are annual compliance fees?

There are no annual compliance fees for WM 15 permits, as promulgated in 310 CMR 4.00.



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7. How long is the notice of intent in effect?

Each general permit is effective for 5 years, but coverage under the permits may be for less than 5 years depending on when the NOI is submitted and approved.

8. How can I avoid the most common mistakes made in submitting an application?

- Make sure the Notice of Intent is completed according to EPA instructions.
- Contact MassDEP to determine whether to submit NOI, MassDEP Transmittal Form, and payment. Questions regarding POTW General Permit (GP) should be directed to [Claire Golden](#), 978-694-3244. Questions regarding PWTGP should be directed to [Xiaodan Ruan](#), 617-654-6517. Questions regarding Remediation GP should be directed to [Cathy Vakalopoulos](#), 617-348-4026. Questions regarding Stormwater GPs should be directed to [Fred Civian](#), 617-292-5821. Questions regarding all other GP's should be directed to [Jennifer Wood](#), 617-654-6536.
- If required per B.1., submit a copy of the MassDEP Transmittal Form and the completed NOI to MassDEP per #4 above.

Submit fee and a copy of the MassDEP Transmittal Form

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/approvals/transmittal-form-for-payment.html>

to:

Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 4062
Boston, MA 02211.

- If required per B.1.a., a CGP that discharges to an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) also requires submittal of the following:
 - A copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP);
 - A copy of Order of Conditions issued by the municipal Conservation Commission.

9. What are the state regulations that apply to these permits? Where can I get copies?

These regulations include, but are not limited to:

- Surface Water Discharge Regulations, [314 CMR 3.00](#), specifically 314 CMR 3.06.
- Surface Water Quality Standards, [314 CMR 4.00](#).
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators, [257 CMR 2.00](#).
- Timely Action Schedule and Fee Provisions, [310 CMR 4.00](#).

Hard copies may be purchased at:

State Bookstore (in State House)
Room 116
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2834

State Bookstore
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-784-1376



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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Information for NPDES general permits for stormwater is found below:

Construction General Permit (CGP):

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities#cgp>

Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP):

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/final-2015-msgp-documents>

Massachusetts Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit:

https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/MS4_MA.html

Questions should be directed to Fred Civian, 617-292-5821 or frederick.civian@state.ma.us.

2. Information for other NPDES general permits is found below:

Dewatering General Permit (DGP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/dewatering.html>

Hydroelectric Generating Facilities General Permit (HYDRO GP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/hydrogp.html>

Noncontact Cooling Water General Permit (NCCW GP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/nccwgp.html>

Pesticide General Permit (PGP):

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/pesticide-permitting-2016-pgp>

Potable Water Treatment Facilities General Permit (PWTF GP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/pwtfgp.html>

Publicly Owned Treatment Works General Permit (POTW GP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/potw-gp.html>

Remediation General Permit (RGP):

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/rgp.html>

Vessel and Small Vessel General Permits (VGP and sVGP):

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels-vgp>

Questions should be directed to the MassDEP staff listed below:

POTW GP - Claire Golden: 978-694-3244, claire.golden@state.ma.us

PWTF GP - Xiaodan Ruan: 617-654-6517, xiaodan.ruan@state.ma.us

Remediation GP - Cathy Vakalopoulos: 617-348-4026, catherine.vakalopoulos@state.ma.us

All other GPs - Jennifer Wood: 617-654-6536, jennifer.wood@state.ma.us

B. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. For the most part, general permits are administered by EPA and do not require an application to MassDEP except for the circumstances described below:



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- a. Each of the stormwater general permits administered by EPA is listed in section A.1. under "General Information" above, with links to the EPA websites providing contact information and instructions on how to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). In addition, the following applicants applying for coverage must also submit a complete copy of EPA's Notice of Intent (NOI) to MassDEP, along with a MassDEP transmittal form, payment (unless exempt), and any other required submittals:
 - Those applying for coverage under the CGP with discharge to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) and
 - All those applying for coverage under the MS4 Permit.
 - b. Each of the non-stormwater general permits administered by EPA is listed in section A.2. under "General Information" above, with links to the EPA websites providing contact information and instructions on how to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). In addition, the following applicants applying for coverage must also submit a complete copy of EPA's Notice of Intent (NOI) to MassDEP, along with a MassDEP transmittal form, and payment (unless exempt):
 - All those applying for coverage under the POTW GP;
 - All those applying for coverage under the PWTF GP for the first time and that also discharge to ORWs and High Quality Waters;
 - Those applying for coverage under the Remediation General Permit (RGP) discharges from non-MCP sites;
 - Those applying for coverage under the DGP with discharge to Class A or Class SA Waters; and
 - Those applying for coverage under the HYDRO GP with discharge to ORWs.
2. Transmittal Form can be obtained from MassDEP website:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/approvals/transmittal-form-for-payment.html>
 3. Send a copy of the MassDEP transmittal form, a copy of the EPA's NOI, and any other required submittals to:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Surface Water Discharge Permit Program
One Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Send a copy of the MassDEP transmittal form and payment to:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 4062
Boston, MA 02211

4. EPA Application package. Unless the submittal requires electronic submittal, send the NOI to:

EPA New England
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912
ATTN: Olga Vergara

Olga Vergara can be reached at 617-918-1519, fax 617-918-2064, or email vergara.olga@epa.gov.